

Pallbearers

Martell Alexander
John Bennett
Michael Bennett
Travis Cauthen
Marquis Holmes
Derrick Tompkins

Floral Bearers

Granddaughters
&
Great-Granddaughters

*Celebrating the Life
of*

Mary Drakeford Furman

Sunrise
September 17, 1932

Sunset
January 13, 2026

In Tribute

You never said I'm leaving
You never said goodbye
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knows why.

A million times I needed you,
A million times I have cried.
If Love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.

It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you
The day God called you home.

-- Author Unknown

Acknowledgements

The family of the late **Mary Drakeford Furman** wishes to express their appreciation for your kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy via visits, telephone calls, cards, text messages, social media, etc. All acts of kindness were of great comfort. May Almighty God continue to bless each of you as we navigate this new beginning.

Professional Services Entrusted to
Reverend Anthony J. Bracy, Jr. and the Staff of



Collins Funeral Home, Inc.
714 West DeKalb Street
Camden, South Carolina 29020
803-432-3636
www.georgecollinsfh.com

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 • 1:00 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist Church
2325 Flat Rock Road
Camden, South Carolina 29020

Reverend Gregory V. Mallory, Pastor Presiding



Reflections of Her Life

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

- 2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV

Mrs. Mary Drakeford-Furman, 93, of Camden, South Carolina, transitioned peacefully into eternal life on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at MUSC Health Kershaw Medical Center in Camden, South Carolina with her children and grandchildren by her side. She was born on Saturday, September 17, 1932, in Kershaw County during the Great Depression to the late Deacon Tom and Jessie Alexander-Drakeford. She was raised in a Christian home where she was taught to trust God, pray, read/study scriptures, to love others as you love yourself, and the importance of a strong, dedicated, and committed work ethic.

Mrs. Furman received her education at the Dekalb School in Kershaw County. She stressed the importance of a "good" education and often reminded her children of how she and her siblings had to walk from her parents' house in the back of Macedonia Baptist Church to the Dekalb School in good and bad weather.

Mrs. Furman was converted and baptized at an early age at Macedonia Baptist Church, Flat Rock Road, and served as a devoted and faithful member until she married. After marriage, she joined the Zion Hill AME Zion Church, Camden, South Carolina, and continued her Christian walk. At Zion Hill AME, Mrs. Furman was a Deaconess, member of the Adult Choir, served on the Pastor's Aide, Missionary Society, and Mother of the Church. After many dedicated and faithful years at Zion Hill, Mrs. Furman yearned to return to her childhood home Church, Macedonia Baptist, to worship with her siblings for a sense of unity and shared purpose, as they supported the church in all capacities and each other in their faith walk. Upon her return to Macedonia, Mrs. Furman was active in the activities of the church, attended Sunday School, Bible Study, and served on the Senior Choir, and as the Mother of the Church.

Mrs. Furman was employed for many years as a domestic engineer and for many of the families in which she was employed they became not only her employer but also family; especially, Doug and Johnnie Walker and their children, Ryan and Sally.

Mrs. Furman married the late James Elmer Furman, Sr., who entered into eternal life on Sunday, June 26, 2016, and to this union, nine children were born.

Mrs. Furman was preceded in death by her parents, Deacon Tom and Jessie Alexander-Drakeford; her devoted husband, James Elmer Furman, Sr; brothers, Lewis Drakeford, Grover Drakeford, and Anderson Drakeford; sisters, Mamie Drakeford, Bessie Drakeford, Martha Catoe, Rosalee Evans, Elizabeth Jones, and Lottie Mae Drakeford; and one grandson, Nigel Akeem Furman.

Those left to cherish her fond memories, grieve her passing and celebrate her homecoming; five sons, James (Arta) Elmer Furman, Jr of El Paso, Texas, Jerome Furman of Denton, Texas, Michael (Cynthia) Furman of Florence, South Carolina, Raymond (Fontella) Furman of Washington, D.C., and Barton (Azaleana) Furman of Camden, South Carolina; four daughters, Pearline Furman, Jessie Mae Alexander, and Loretta Furman, all of Camden, South Carolina and Prophetess Mary Ann (Charles) Crosby of Lawton, Oklahoma; one adopted daughter, Madeline (Columbus) Williams of Camden, South Carolina; thirteen grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Mrs. Furman will be remembered for being the world's best mom, her kindness, generosity, love and spirit, and for leaving an indelible impression upon all who came in contact with her. She will be sorely missed but fondly remembered especially by her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Order of Worship

Reverend Gregory V. Mallory, Presiding

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL..... Clergy, Family and Friends

SONG OF CELEBRATION Macedonia Combined Choir

PRAYER OF COMFORT Rev. James Furman
of Mt. Zion Christian Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, New York

SCRIPTURE READINGS.....Prophetess Mary Crosby

OLD TESTAMENT

NEW TESTAMENT

SELECTIONElder Samuel Dennis

POEM Teresa Holmes

REFLECTIONSMalik Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Walker
Deacon Gerald Williams
Michael Furman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS Amy Alexander

SOLO Rashika Campbell-Bracey

WORDS OF COMFORTPastor Gregory V. Mallory

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT

Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery
Camden, South Carolina

COMMITTAL, CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION